

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) Method for sharing load information between radio network controllers connected to each other by a standard interface (Iur) and for operating in an environment where the radio network controllers are from a same vendor or from different vendors, comprising the steps of:

determining in a first radio network controller, ~~in response to a load request signal from a second radio network controller,~~ that a certain load condition exists,

signaling the a second radio network controller over said standard interface that, said certain load condition exists using a measurement report and, in addition, a proposed action using an information element indicative thereof.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said proposed action is to restrict data flow.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the proposed action is to carry out an interfrequency handover.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the proposed action is to carry out an intersystem handover.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the proposed action is to release a radio bearer.

6. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving the signaling from the first controller in the second controller, and

carrying out the proposed action.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said proposed action is to restrict data flow.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the proposed action is to carry out an interfrequency handover.

9. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the proposed action is to carry out an intersystem handover.

10. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the proposed action is to release a radio bearer.

11. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for sharing load information between radio network controllers connected to each other by a first standard interface (Iur) and for operating in an environment where the radio network controllers are from a same vendor or from different vendors, comprising:

means for determining in a first radio network controller, ~~in response to a load request signal from a second network controller,~~ that a certain load condition exists; and

means for signaling a second radio network controller over said standard interface that said certain load condition exists using a measurement request and a proposed action using an information element indicative thereof.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said proposed action is to restrict data flow.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the proposed action is to carry out an interfrequency handover.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the proposed action is to carry out an intersystem handover.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the proposed action is to release a radio bearer.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising:

means for receiving in the second controller the signaling from the first controller; and

means for carrying out the proposed action in the second controller to alleviate the overload condition.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said proposed action is to restrict data flow.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the proposed action is to carry out an interfrequency handover.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the proposed action is to carry out an intersystem handover.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the proposed action is to release a radio bearer.